

SB 30 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY AND IDENTITY THEFT

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As a recent victim of Identity theft where among other things, my banking information was stolen and used to open a new account, I support changes to S.B. No.30 which require banks to better protect consumer account and social security information. In particular, I support the proposed changes to Section 11 of the bill that requires banks to **adequately** protect consumer information. I also support making identity theft a **felony** and allowing prosecution to take place in the area where the person's whose identity has been stolen resides. I support changes to the bill that allow for greater penalties to the thieves and greater assistance to victims of identity theft. I also support the bill's efforts to be proactive in limiting the amount of personal information required on documents as a step to reduce the risk of identity theft.

Victims of identity theft spend an inordinate amount of time trying to ascertain and correct the "damage done" by the theft and I support this bill's effort to **require** the court to correct public records ... (Sec. 6. Section 54-93a). I also support a **three** year, vs. a two year, time frame in which to bring civil action. While I am glad to see that the bill requires the criminal to pay restitution, I am also glad to learn of a fund for victims where restitution falls short.

I appreciate the efforts of the Senators proposing this bill and the Office of Consumer Protection in working to educate and safeguard the citizens of Connecticut. In the future I would like to see this bill include fines and strong legal sanctions for business that do not adequately protect consumer information.

I ask those voting on this bill to please do everything in your power to support this bill and others that expand the definition of identity theft, require government and banking agencies to better safeguard an individual's personal information, and allow the courts and law enforcement agencies to penalize criminals for this disturbing and disruptive invasion of one's personal wellbeing and safety.

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